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In Memory of Sergeant Roger Dale Rowe

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Commissary Usage for the National Guard

Spec. William Jones
Det. 1, 133rd MPAD

Any person visiting the Fort Campbell, Ky. commissary is familiar with the electronic prompting of the "next please" machine at the checkout line. What most National Guard soldiers and their families may not be familiar with is the new enforcement of the commissary card by Defense Commissary Agency personnel.

The commissary card, also known as a "pink ID card", has been around for years; however, not until this year has its use been enforced. This card permits a non-active duty soldier access to the post grocery store 24 times within a calendar year. A new card must be issued each year.

Access to the commissary is not limited if the soldier is in an annual training status or called to federal service. All a soldier or family member needs to do is to present a copy of their orders along with their ID card.

Any soldier who desires to utilize the commissary must request a DD Form 2529 from their unit clerk. Soldiers needing additional information about the DeCA run commissary may do so by calling the Fort Campbell commissary at (270) 798-2606 or logging onto www.commissaries.com.

Taking Stock On Iraq



**By Major General
Gus Hargett**

Thousands of National Guardsmen are now in Iraq involved in the mission of turning a troubled land into a peaceful and productive nation.

Theirs is a difficult and, no doubt, extremely dangerous job, one that will take months, maybe years, and perhaps even more Guardsmen to complete.

Nevertheless, it's time to take stock in the Guard's contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom. There are lessons to be learned and success stories to be told.

Chief among the lessons is the National Guard mobilization experience.

Lt.Gen. Steven Blum, the new National Guard Bureau chief, wants to streamline the Army Guard mobilization process (page 20). Undoubtedly, the buildup for operations in Iraq is his rationale.

Too many of our mobilized units sat out the major fighting at their "mob" stations. They were called up because Gen. Tommy Franks thought he needed them in Iraq. Unfortunately, the mobilization stations were in no hurry to get them there.

Part of the problem was the delay in getting the 4th Infantry Division to the fight. That division's equipment was in some of the ships needed to move our equipment.

But a larger part of the problem was a process that discounts Guard training and accountability.

A letter from a company-grade officer in the Mail Call section of this magazine illustrates the situation.

Capt. Robert H. Eason Jr.'s unit spent two months at a mobilization station validating already-demonstrated readiness and undergoing redundant processing before being sent home because the war was over. He called it "a waste."

I couldn't agree more.

Sound familiar?

This process is insulting to our people and our units. More important, it makes us late to the fight. This denies combatant commanders the units they need, when they need them. It also erodes our units' morale and their relevancy.

We can keep these problems from happening again. But this will only happen if we document our experiences, share them with the Army leadership and press for change.

Despite the mobilization difficulties, many National Guard units - Army and Air - made significant contributions during the three-week war in Iraq.

Some of these stories are being told. Unfortunately, many have been homogenized in the larger Army and Air Force contributions.

While we were proud that our units served along side our active-duty brethren, we need Congress and the American people to know that the Guardsmen mobilized for Iraq contributed to the fight. It's vital to our relevancy - perceived and actual.

We need them to know, for example, that in many cases it was Air Guard A-10 Thunderbolt IIs that helped clear Iraqi armor in front of the 3rd Infantry Division and the Marines on their way to Baghdad.

We also need them to know that Army Guard infantry units secured Patriot anti-missile sites and supply lines and that Guard Special Forces outfits teamed with Shiite resistance to take several towns ahead of the main advance.

And we need them to know that Air Guard F-16s were critical to the air war. That Air Guard refuelers helped sustain the air effort. And that Army Guard military police, engineer and transportation units are still in Iraq helping to rebuild that country.

We need them to know these and so many other contributions we made and continue to make in Iraq.

The NGAUS has ways to help get these stories out.

One is the through the pages of this magazine. We need pictures and stories from Iraq to print in the months ahead. Another is our conference. We are looking for Iraqi Freedom veterans who can come to Biloxi, Miss., in September and tell their stories.

By sharing your experiences, you are telling the Guard story and strengthening our message to Congress, the Pentagon and the American people. You are also sharing lessons learned to those who may someday follow in your footsteps.

Take the time to document and share your mobilization and deployment experiences. I've focused on Iraq but the same applies to every mission. By doing so, you will be helping your unit and the Guard.

Sgt Roger Dale Rowe

14 July 1948 - 09 July 2003

Sgt. Roger D. Rowe, 54, of Bon Aqua, was killed by sniper fire near Baghdad on July 9, 2003. Rowe, a 17-year member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, was part of Detachment 1, 771st Maintenance Co., based in Hohenwald, but was deployed as a truck driver with the 1174th Transportation Co. from Dresden and Newbern.

Rowe, was the first Tennessee National Guard soldier to be killed in hostile action since Vietnam. He was also the oldest soldier to be killed in the Iraq war to date.

Rowe posthumously was presented with the Army Commendation Medal, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his meritorious service.

"I don't know if God goes to church, but I do know that he goes to war," family friend Devin Pickard told those assembled at Sgt. Rowe's memorial service. Pickard read from a letter Rowe wrote on June 30 and mailed to his family from more than 6,500 miles away.

Sgt. Rowe leaves his wife of almost 34 years, Shirley, along with his mother, brother, four children, and seven grandchildren.

Although Rowe served as an Army medic in Vietnam in 1969 and '70 and was in the National Guard for 17 years, those who eulogized him remembered him more as a dedicated father, grandfather and husband than

a soldier.

"Sometimes it was hard to distinguish between the kids and my dad," said Rowe's eldest son, Mart. "There were many times we had to tell him to stop running around the pool."



undated family photo

The family also received a letter from musician Charlie Daniels. Daniels wrote to express his sympathies and also his gratitude to Rowe for giving his life "for the freedom and survival of America."

Bill McDonald, a Church of Christ evangelist who also spoke during the service, said Rowe's death was "nothing but the last page of his life story. Something much more important is the book that he wrote that led up to that last page."

"For the first time in literally 50 years, I came to understand what the price of freedom truly is," McDonald said.

More than 70 uniformed Tennessee guard members marched behind the white hearse from the chapel to the gravesite in the south-

west Davidson County cemetery.

Tennessee National Guard Lt. Col. Billy Taylor said he spoke for many who came to pay their respects when he said, "I only wish I could've known him better."

Tennessee's Bravest Return

730th Quartermaster Supply Company

WHEREAS, throughout the long history of this State, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname. The citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorable safeguard the freedoms and liberties offered to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our pursuits of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect Tennesseans, Americans, and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the 730th Quartermaster Supply Company, based in Gray, Tennessee has again proved its limitless value through its participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom; for the roles they played in making possible the toppling of the Hussein regime, these ninety-five brave soldiers are retiring home as heroes; and

WHEREAS, attached to the 13th Corps Support Battalion in Fort Benning, Georgia, 730th Quartermaster Supply Company was the most forward deployed supply company during the combat efforts, as it was assigned to provide logistical support to combat units of the mechanized 3rd Infantry Division, including the 3rd Squadron, 7th United States Cavalry, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigade Combat teams, and the non-divisional forces in the area; and

WHEREAS, bravely establishing multiple support centers along the 475-mile combat movement into Baghdad, the 730th Quartermaster Supply Company provided over eighty thousand troops with essential food, water, and fuel. Although designed to supply up to 19,500 soldiers at once, the 730th efficiently managed to keep four times that many soldiers in peak condition, often deploying ahead of the 3rd Infantry's own support battalions; and

WHEREAS, the company was identified by the code name "Volunteer" throughout the duration of the operation, reflecting the tradition, honor, and duty that has been demonstrated by the Tennesseans in combat and proving once more that Tennesseans are ready, willing, and able to do whatever needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the 730th Quartermaster Supply Company performed their tasks with alacrity, erudition, and expeditiousness, ensuring the safety of untold numbers of soldiers, and they should be commended for their courageous service upon their return home; now, therefore,

I, John S. Wilder, Speaker of the Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, at the request of and in conjunction with Senator Rusty Crowe, do hereby proclaim that we honor and commend the soldiers of the 730th Quartermaster Supply Company for the bravery and dedication shown during their support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and welcome their return with the thanks of a grateful State.

Proclaimed in Nashville, Tennessee on this the 3rd day of July, 2003



Ten year old Stephanie Nichols of Gray TN cheers for her father Sgt. Robert Nichols at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Grey, TN



Spec Sabrina Clevenger, Capt. Chris Patterson and Sgt. Rick Giles of the 730th Quartermasters Supply Company.

Happy Returns for the 730th

*Photos By: Sgt. Russell Lee Klicka
Det. 1, 133rd MPAD*



Family members of the 730th Quartermaster Supply Company cheer for returning soldiers at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Gray, TN.



Capt. Chris Patterson kisses the forehead of 7-month old Ashley Patterson; Capt. Patterson left for Iraq when she was 8-weeks old.

Air Ambulance Supports Army Rangers

Story and Photos by: Staff Sgt. Gary C. Chancey
Det 1, 133rd MPAD

Imagine having to be prepared on a moments notice to be called on to save someone's life. For most people, the thought of that much pressure would be hard to handle on a day-to-day basis. For almost 40 members of the Tennessee Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 146th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), maintaining a high state of readiness is commonplace.

The Knoxville, Tennessee based unit, in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Joint Endeavor, was activated on short notice in January to backfill their active duty counterparts who have been dispatched to the Middle East. The soldiers call Fort Benning, Georgia as their home base for now, with no known end date for their return to Tennessee.

Fort Benning is known around the military ranks as "Home of the U.S. Army Infantry School."

The air ambulance crews and three helicopters known as the UH-60Q Black Hawks are staffed and equipped with lifesaving materials to respond at a moments notice to meet the needs of the Army.

Every crew that's dispatched in an emergency has four soldiers on board consisting of a crew chief, flight medic, Pilot and Co-pilot. The unit has basically two primary missions. They are to support Ranger training missions in North Georgia at a facility in Dahlonega and just across the Georgia border into Florida at Eglin, Air



(Left) Sgt. Jason Banta, Crew Chief, Det 1, 146th Medical Company (AA) stands next to his brother (Right) SSG Tracy Banta, a Senior Flight Medic for Det 1, 146th Medical Company (AA).

Force Base, where Camp James Rudder, another key training facility is located for Army Rangers.

Staff Sgt. Tracy Banta, senior flight medic and the section leader says with great confidence, "We can basically provide a soldier with the same level of care as a paramedic in the civilian sector. If someone went into cardiac arrest, we have the drugs and material that can actually save their life."

Back home in Charleston, Tennessee, Staff Sgt. Banta is a husband and father of three children. The soldier operates a family business repairing heavy equipment. While family members keep the home business operating, he has another family member alongside of him. His younger brother Jason, serves in the 146th as a crew chief.



While being deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Joint Endeavor, Senior Flight Medic SSG Tracy Banta oversees training of Flight Medic SGT. Edward (Ed) Cate at Fort Benning, Ga.

See "Air Ambulance" on next page

"Air Ambulance" continues

A Black Hawk UH-60Q holds steady as Flight Medic Sgt. Edward (Ed) Cate holds the line, as the crew chief on board sends equipment down to hoist an injured soldier during a training mission for Det. 1, 146th Medical Company (AA) at Fort Benning, Ga.

"Having my little brother here does help out. He really didn't know what he wanted to do when he joined the guard. I mentioned our unit and he wanted to give it a try," concludes Staff Sgt. Banta.

Sergeant Jason Banta comments, "We have served together on active duty training periods before but not extended deployments like we are now. It's good to have someone to look up too. He is quick to remind me I need to do this and you need to do this better. He knows what he's doing."

At the time of this writing, the 146th had encountered three medical emergencies that warranted their medical evacuation expertise.

Senior Crew Chief Staff Sgt. Steve Vacula, Jr. of Friendsville, Tn. has witnessed two of three emergencies first hand.

He says, "I've participated on two emergencies so far. One of the cases was in Dahlonega and the other in Florida. They both were pretty interesting. The Florida

case included a soldier that suffered from heat exhaustion. We had to fly out into the swamp to pick up the soldier."

Staff Sgt. Vacula told us the other emergency was in the mountains of Dahlonega. Apparently, a retired Army officer was visiting an open house for the Ranger facility and suffered what was believed to be a heart attack.

"We picked up the patient and transported him to a local hospital," says Staff Sgt. Vacula.

The 2-½ week rotations to the swamps of Florida appeared to be the most challenging for the air ambulance crews. Each time the soldiers are sent to the location they have to be validated. The soldiers have to demonstrate they can medevac not only litter patients, but also the hoisting of a patient out of the swampy waters into the air ambulance.

See "Air Ambulance" next page

"Air Ambulance" continues

Staff Sgt. Vacula says, "The crew chief, located in the aircraft is the operator of the hoist. The flight medic is lowered down with the hoist to treat the patient. I completed 10 years on active duty and have never worked with Ranger crews or special operations like this. We've heard some great remarks about our performance."

Staff Sgt. Vacula illustrates one of the testing situations the crew encountered.

"It's really a difficult situation they put us in. The Rangers have the zodiac boats out in the swamp, where normally we are hoisting a flight medic down in a clearing in the trees. Here we hoist at 80 feet in the air into trees filled with foliage and into the swamp, hoping to land the flight medic into the zodiac boat without getting his gear wet or him. In our first test, we had the medic and the patient in the helicopter within 90 seconds. The Ranger cadre were amazed at our speed," concludes Staff Sgt. Vacula.

"We are putting people into the trees where the crew chief can't see. Communication devices in our helmets allow us to be in constant contact with the helicopter. Once we go through the canopy of the trees, they can't see us. At night when we are being tested, the tempo is really up as we use night vision goggles," adds Staff Sgt. Banta.

Staff Sgt. Banta says, "The Ranger validation has actually allowed the crew to hoist for the first time with night vision goggles. In February, we actually put a medic on the hoist for the first time with the entire crew outfitted with night vision goggles. Prior to coming on the deployment, this was not allowed."

The units Commander, First Lieutenant John White, a Brentwood, Tennessee resident says, "The hoist under night vision goggles is the most demanding thing that we do. I have no complaints as far as the people in our unit. We have a high caliber group of individuals to the point they seek this unit. They all wanted to be a part of something good and make it even stronger. These guys just step up to the plate and hit a homerun every time."



Flight Medic Sgt. Edward (Ed) Cate prepares to conduct a hoist operation, where a simulated injured soldier is recovered from the ground by air with a Black Hawk UH-60Q helicopter.



Deployed Flight Medic To The Rescue

Story and Photos by: Staff Sgt Gary C. Chancey
Det 1, 133rd MPAD

Tennessee Army National Guard Sergeant Edward (Ed) Cate is not one for expecting or wanting a lot of praise for a job well done. But a few months ago, when heavy rains hit East Tennessee and his hometown of Knoxville, he couldn't help but lend a helping hand to save the life of a fellow citizen. Especially, since it's his nature to assist when called on as a full-time Paramedic/Fireman for the Rural-Metro Fire Department in Knox County.

It was on a Thursday, Sgt. Cate signed out for leave from Fort Benning, Ga. where he serves as a Flight Medic for Detachment 1, 146th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). The Knoxville based unit is deployed there to support Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom.

Sgt. Cate headed to Knoxville to pay his last respects to a friend and co-worker who had passed away. Unfortunately, the guardsman never made it to the funeral. Mother Nature and his willingness to help when called changed his plans.

It was about 3 a.m. on Sunday morning, when he got a call from his civilian counterparts with the Knoxville Volunteer Rescue Squad, where he is the Assistant Chief.

"I got home and was asked to respond to an incident. They told me an apartment building had collapsed due to a mudslide in the Karnes community. I only live about a mile from the station so I got up and headed into work," said Sgt. Cate.

The guardsman went to the nearby rescue squad station to report in, accounted for his personnel and load equipment for what soon turned into a search and rescue mission.

Sgt. Cate adds, "When we got there a mud flow had collapsed three buildings. Everyone was accounted for except one person, who was himself a healthcare provider for Oak Ridge Medical Center. The team checked for clues to his whereabouts and see if he was certainly missing."

By now it was daybreak and Sgt. Cate and his crew now knew they were looking for a missing person. They

had to deal with yet more rain and additional mudslides that took out the apartment complex clubhouse. By midmorning, the team of professionals discovered the building where the missing occupant might be located.

"The building was unstable as we could hear popping and cracking from the building still moving. I used a bullhorn to try to make contact with the missing person. We then took plywood and placed it onto the mud to allow us to get a closer look. Contact was then made with the victim," comments Sgt. Cate.

Sgt. Cate asked the Knoxville Fire Department to bring in a large ladder truck to get the rescuers into a better position to rescue the victim.

Sgt. Cate says, "I made physical contact being a paramedic and provided medical treatment. We had to get the building materials off of him and then mobilized his spine, put him into a harness and gave him oxygen. The patient was very hypothermic. Since he was a doctor, he was very helpful in describing the extent of his injuries. After rescuing the victim, I then handed him over to the Life Star crew to transport via helicopter to a local hospital."

Thanks to the response of Sgt. Cate and his crew, the victim is recovering well. He did have one of his legs removed and is

going through rehabilitation to help with his artificial leg.

To commemorate the courageous work of the citizen soldier and a few members of his team, Knox County Commissioners awarded Sgt. Cate and the rest of the rescuers with a proclamation and a day for each of them. Shortly after the incident, the soldier had to return to Fort Benning to resume his military duties as a flight medic, but is very thankful for the day said aside as "Ed Cate Day" in Knox County.

His Commander First Lieutenant John White commented, "Sgt. Cate is a great National Guard asset and his courageous achievement is a perfect example of being a citizen soldier. The type of people we have in our unit, like the flight medics, are mostly paramedics in the civilian world and it's something that comes natural as these guys step up to the plate and do it day in and day out."



Flight Medic Sgt. Edward Cate

Welcome Home C-46 Engineers

*Photos by: Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski
Det. 1, 133rd MPAD*



Spec. Duke Pettit, Spec. Jeff Baker, Spec. Randy Bond are happy to be home.



1st Lt. Tim Roberts Platoon Leader for C Co. 1st Platoon 46th Engineers with wife Amber, son Nathan (3 years old) and Elizabeth (14 months old). Dad is back by popular demand.

BASSHAM TO LEAD TEMA

NASHVILLE—Governor Phil Bredesen, along with Tennessee Adjutant General Gus Hargett, today named Major General (Ret.) James Bassham as the new Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

“As we saw this spring, TEMA plays a critical role in times of natural disaster, but it is also an increasingly important partner as we work to meet other, new security-related challenges. I am confident that General Bassham will bring the leadership we need to prepare for whatever kind of emergency the future may hold,” Bredesen said. “His background also makes him a natural to help coordinate TEMA’s efforts with those of other state agencies and departments with overlapping interests – a key part of agency’s role moving forward.”

Operating under the Tennessee Department of Military, TEMA is responsible for ensuring the state is prepared to cope with disasters and major emergencies. In times of crisis, they coordinate the state’s disaster response with other federal, state and local officials. The agency was originally established in 1951 as the Tennessee Military Department’s Office of Civil Defense and in 1984, was renamed the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, which is a key part of the agency’s mission.

“General Bassham brings strong leadership to TEMA,” Hargett said. “He has been a key player for many years in coordinating security operations and civil disturbance response activities between the Air National Guard and Tennessee’s major commercial airports. He also clearly understands the interrelationship between TEMA and local governments.”



Bassham, 62, began his career with six years of service in the United States Air Force. In 1970, he became a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard where he was commander of the 164th Airlift Wing. In 1995, he was named assistant adjutant general. Bassham retired from the military in 2002 although remained part of the Military Department’s senior management until today’s announcement.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Bassham’s appointment as director follows the retirement of long-time TEMA director John D. White,

Jr. White, who announced his retirement earlier this summer, was with the agency for 34 years.